

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, BR

SUBJECT: VISIT OF CUSTOMS OFFICERS

REF:BRASILIA 0933

1. MR. ARNO ZIESNITZ, ACTING CHIEF OF FOREIGN INVESTIGATION
BRANCH, U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE, CALLED TO DISCUSS WITH ARA/BR
LATEST DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING U.S. CUSTOMS OFFICERS'
DESIRE CARRY ON INQUIRIES IN BRAZIL. WE AGREED IT IMPORT-
ANT TO AVOID IMPASSE WITH GOB ON THIS SUBJECT, SINCE
INABILITY OF U.S. TO OBTAIN REQUIRED INFORMATION ON AT
LEAST SOME OF CASES INVOLVED WOULD PROBABLY RESULT IN
CUSTOMS VALUATION OF SHIPMENTS FROM FIRMS INVOLVED AT
HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT U.S.
REVENUES ARE ADEQUATELY PROTECTED. (SEC. 500 OF SPECIAL
ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION OF THE TARIFF ACT OF 1930.)

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2. IN ORDER TO OBTAIN GOB APPROVAL OF THE VISIT, IT IS

CLEAR FROM MINISTER ROUANET'S AIDE MEMOIRE BRAZILIAN SUSPICIONS MUST BE ALLAYED. AS AN EFFORT IN THAT DIRECTION, U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE IS WILLING TO POSTPONE INQUIRIES ON CASES INVOLVING THE MOST SENSITIVE PRODUCT CATEGORIES (E.G. SHOES, LEATHER HANDBAGS) AND INVITE GOB TO DESIGNATE OFFICIALS TO ACCOMPANY U.S. CUSTOMS REPRESENTATIVES ON

VISITS TO REMAINING FIRMS. U.S. CUSTOMS REPS IN MEXICO CITY WILL BE SENDING MESSAGE TO EMBASSY COVERING THIS POSSIBILITY.

3. IN ITS APPROACH TO GOB, EMBASSY MAY WISH TO POINT OUT THAT THE LAST INQUIRY BY U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE IN BRAZIL WAS CARRIED OUT BY MR. PADILLA (WHO SPEAKS PORTUGUESE) IN 1974 IN THE ANTI-DUMPING CASE INVOLVING BRAZILIAN EXPORTS OF SEATS FOR RAPID TRANSIT VEHICLES; LARGELY ON BASIS OF INFORMATION HE RECEIVED FROM BRAZILIAN FIRMS, THE ITC RULED ON DEC. 31, 1974 THAT DUMPING HAD NOT REPEAT NOT OCCURRED.

4. FYI:IF GOB RESPONSE TO FOREGOING PROPOSAL NEGATIVE, ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO MISSION MAY BE REQUESTED TO CARRY OUT INQUIRY ON BASIS INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED BY CUSTOMS SERVICE. WE PREFER AVOID THIS ROUTE SINCE SUBJECT VERY COMPLEX EVEN FOR CUSTOMS EXPERTS. MOREOVER, WE ARE AWARE THAT GOB MIGHT WELL OPPOSE INQUIRY CARRIED OUT BY MEMBERS OF MISSION SHOULD IT CONTINUE TO DENY APPROVAL OF VISIT BY CUSTOMS REPS. KISSINGER

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